

# The Point

Issue 3

Fitchburg State College

Week of Oct. 6, 1999

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just fill in  
the blanks

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## Students furious over fees

by AnneMarie Donahue

"I had to buy my keys this year," said Jennifer Buck, a sophomore-nursing student. Buck said she and many other resident students were told that they would be required to pay the \$20 hall-council fee that had always been voluntary, and that they would not be issued room keys unless they paid it.

The hall-council fee is used to fund social activities and to purchase additional recreation equipment for the residence halls, according to Jay Bry, director of campus living and the assistant dean of students.

The Student Government Association had discussed this issue at a meeting on Sept. 28. "A lot of students were forced to pay first, before they were given their keys," said Student Trustee Michelle Phipps. Phipps said that FSC President Michael Riccards had been made aware of the

situation in a meeting she had with him earlier. According to Phipps, the president did not approve of the actions taken by the Office of Campus Living.

"The Office of Campus Living, resident assistants and administrative resident assistants were informed by the professional staff of the Office of Campus Living that the hall-council fee was a mandatory fee and would have to be paid when residents signed in for the year," said Eric Carpenter, administrative resident assistant of Herlihy Hall.

Sixty percent of the students paid the hall-council fee this fall, according to Bry. "I don't know what the collection rate was in the past. All I know is, it was low. This is the first year we chose to track it," Bry said.

Many of the students who didn't pay the hall-council fee this fall have received letters asking them to do so. Rebecca Morse, president of the Class of 2001, said she received such a letter. "This is the first year that I've ever

been asked to pay," Morse said at the Sept. 28 SGA meeting.

Traditionally, only students who intended to serve on the hall councils of their residence halls paid the hall-council fee. However, some students misinterpreted the hall-council fee as payment for using things provided by their residence halls.

"Items that are purchased by our department or by the college are bought on the behalf of all students in the residence halls," Bry said. He said the hall-council fee was not mandatory. Bry said that no students had been kept from obtaining their keys, whether they paid the fee or not.

However, some students said they resented having been told to pay. "This year (Assistant Director of Campus Living) Matt Scott himself told me I had to (pay the fee)," student Michael Jacobson said.

The possibility of reimbursing students has not yet been discussed.

## Falcon Fest prepares to take off

Fitchburg State College will open its annual Falcon Fest on Oct. 14 with a parade and fireworks, followed by a string of activities including several athletic events, seminars, children's programs, tours, food, and films.

Falcon Fest'99, scheduled for Oct. 14-16, combines the traditional alumni reunion with homecoming and parents weekend. Area residents are invited to attend any or all of the events, many of which are free of charge.

A golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 15, at Townsend Ridge Country Club. Athletic contests will include volleyball and football games. For children, a Saturday Family Fun Flick is scheduled, as are face-painting and an ice-cream social.

The weekend's food fare includes a midnight breakfast, an Oktoberfest Buffet Dinner, a cookout, and, for alumni, the annual banquet. At the banquet, four new members will be inducted into the college's Athletic Hall of Fame.

The complete schedule of events is as follows:

**Thursday, Oct. 14**  
**6 p.m.**

A Sterling Performance-ACCESS

Reception in the Alumni House followed by dinner and celebration at 7 p.m. in the Newman Center. ACCESS alumni should call Jamie Cochran at (978) 665-3399 for further information.

**8 p.m.**  
"Harvey"

A hare-raising comedy by Mary Chase, starring FSC faculty member Tom Murray and New York guest artist Carla Hayes. This production of the Theater Program of the English Department will be presented in McKay Auditorium. Tickets can be obtained by calling the box office at (978) 6653347.

**Friday, Oct. 15**  
**11 a.m.**

Tin Cup: Golf Outing, an afternoon of Captain's Choice golf to be held at Townsend Ridge Country Club.



Contact Don Lightfoot, director of development, at (978) 665-3441 for more details. The price of \$125 per person includes greens fee, cart, dinner and more.

**4-7 p.m.**

Check-in & Information Tables  
Main Lounge, Hammond Campus Center

**7 p.m.**

Pep Rally & Falcon Fest Parade

The pep rally will be held on the Quad,

Falcon Fest,  
continued on page 2



# Falcon Fest gets set to soar across campus

continued from cover

with the parade leading to Elliot Field. Join cheerleaders, sports teams, classes, students, alumni, family members, faculty and staff as they cheer the football team on to victory. Following the pep rally, enjoy the bands, antique cars, floats and other marchers in the Second Falcon Fest Parade.

**8:15 - 9 p.m.**

Fireworks Display

Elliot Field

Bring a blanket and have a blast!

**9:30 p.m.**

Comedian Gary Owen will perform in Weston Auditorium

Host of the Black Entertainment Network (Comic View), Owen appeared with Jamie Foxx in "Inconvenience" and on the Comedy Network.

**11 a.m.**

Breakfast in Holmes Dining Hall

Free for children under 10; \$5 at the door for all others.

**Saturday, Oct. 16**

**8 a.m.-noon**

Check-in & Information Tables

Main Lounge, Hammond Campus Center

**9 a.m. and 1 p.m.**

Admissions Information

Stop by and meet our admissions officers in the Admissions Office, Sanders Administration Building

**8:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

The Leader Series (for individuals approaching or in retirement will feature the topic "Y2K: Uncommon Strategies for the New Millennium to

Minimize Taxes and Maximize Returns."

**9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**

The Leader Series (for early- and mid-career professionals) will feature the topic "High Technology and the Internet: Making Investment Strategy, Capital Formation and Minimizing Taxes Work for the Professional."

Sponsored by the FSC Foundation, the Leader Series is an educational opportunity to help participants gain insight into the new economy, enhance financial health and support educational excellence.

Presenters from Merrill Lynch: Paul Meeks, Patrick Donnelly '85, Robert S. Lyons. Continental Breakfast, G-Level, Hammond Campus Center

**10 a.m.**

Art Exhibit and Tour at Hammond Gallery, with featured artist Charles Shields. Participants should meet at the Information Desk in Hammond Campus Center.

**10 a.m.**

Campus Tours

Tours will be repeated at 10:30, 11, and 11:30 a.m.

Leave from the Main Lounge, Hammond Campus Center

**11 a.m.**

President's Reception

Hammond Campus Center

All are invited to this reception for alumni, parents, students and members of the staff. Take some time to catch up with friends, meet members of the college community and enjoy. Refreshments will be served.

**Noon**

Volleyball vs. Bridgewater State College and Mass. College of Liberal Arts, in Parkinson Gymnasium

**Noon**

Alumni Reunion Luncheon

Leave from the Information Desk, Hammond Campus Center

Special guests are the 50th Anniversary Class of 1949.

There will be a special unveiling of President Riccards' portrait, a gift of the Alumni Association. Participants must register in advance.

**Noon**

Fall Foliage All-Campus Cook-Out

Cook-out fare with all the trimmings plus photo key chains, concessions, and



Falcon Fest is a great opportunity for students to get involved with the surrounding community and show pride in FSC!

more.

Tickets available at the field for \$5

Elliot Athletic Field

**1 p.m.**

Football vs. Framingham State

Elliot Athletic Field

The halftime show: will feature the FSC Dance Club

**1:45 p.m.**

Trolley Tour of Fitchburg State

Tour leaves from the Main Lounge

Hammond Campus Center

**2 p.m.**

"A Bug's Life," film fun for kids of all ages.

Sponsored by the Programs Committee, the screening will be held in Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Campus Center

**3 p.m.**

Ice Cream Social & Face Painting

Enjoy a treat with clowns, face painting, and photo snowglobes.

G-Lobby, Hammond Campus Center

**5 p.m.**

Oktoberfest Buffet Dinner

Strike up the band for dinner and fun in the Commuter Cafe.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$5.

**5:30 p.m.**

Alumni Awards & Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet

Holmes Dining Hall

The Athletic Hall of Fame will induct

four new members at this event; reservations are required.

**6 p.m.**

Men's Soccer vs. Salem State College, at Elliot Athletic Field

**8 p.m.**

"Harvey"

A hare-raising comedy by Mary Chase starring FSC faculty member Tom Murray and New York guest artist Carla Hayes, this production of the Theater Program of the English Department will be held in McKay Auditorium. Tickets can be obtained by calling the box office at (978) 6653347.

**8-11 p.m.**

Fun and Fortune Game Night

Join family and friends in a game of chance; there will be prizes, caricatures, a wheel of fortune and a silent auction in the Main Lounge of Hammond Campus Center. The residence-hall Falcon Fest contest winners will also be announced.

**8:30 p.m. -midnight**

All-Class Pub Reunion

All classes are invited back to enjoy an evening with old friends complete with snacks, prizes and entertainment.

(A photo I.D. is required for all. Must be 18 or over to be admitted, and 21 or over to consume alcoholic beverages.) Underground Pub, Hammond Campus Center



A portrait of President Riccards will be unveiled at Falcon Fest.



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+

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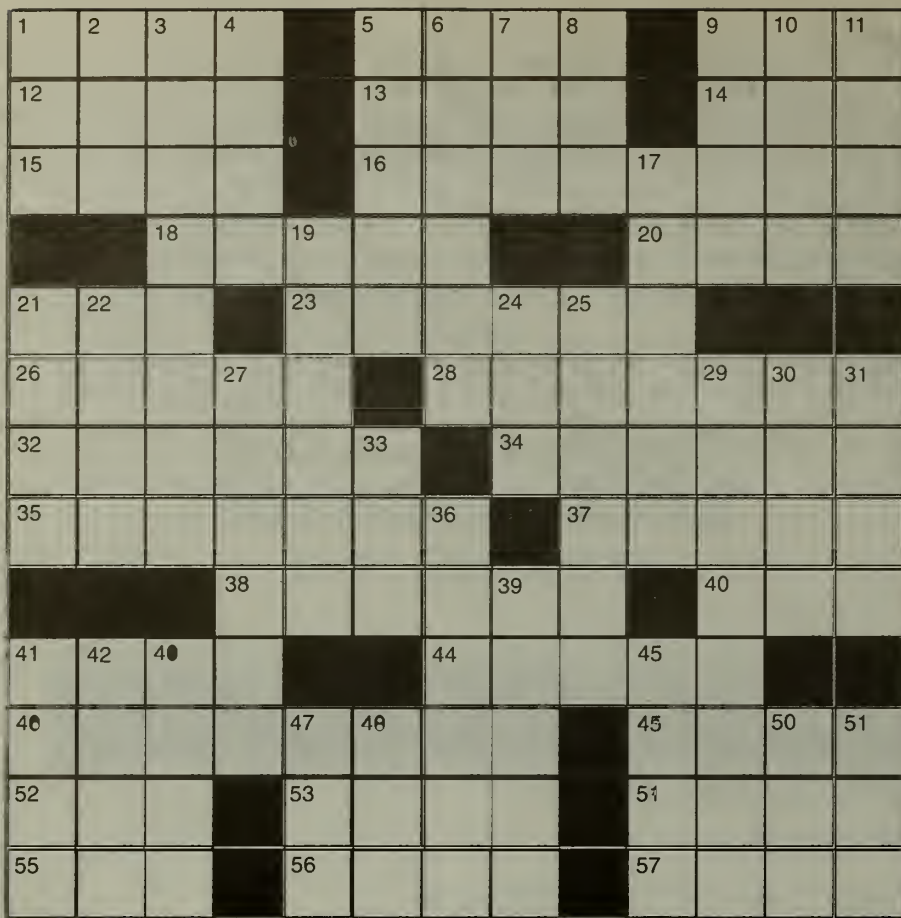
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#### ACROSS

1. Applaud
5. "The Parent \_\_\_\_\_"
9. Yak
12. "\_\_\_\_\_ Man" (Estevez Film)
13. Fully Mature
14. Mr. Lincoln
15. Small barks
16. Found the mean of
18. Tint again
20. Turns right
21. Thick substance
23. Tycoon's property
26. Blacksmith's block
28. Slim Rubbernecks
34. Salad greens
35. Tactful
37. Rescued
38. Withdraw from an alliance
40. Type spaces
41. \_\_\_\_\_ vera

44. Misfit

46. Wisely
49. On the pinnacle
52. Close friend
53. Laboratory bottle
54. Order to a broker
55. Wild blue yonder
56. Days of \_\_\_\_\_ (long ago)
57. Crosscurrent

#### DOWN

1. Bawl
2. Luau garland
3. Permission
4. Model's stance
5. Cafeteria items
6. Metal fasteners
7. Chimpanzee or orangutan
8. \_\_\_\_\_ your request
9. Measuring device
10. Busy as \_\_\_\_\_

11. Cribs

17. Meeting plan
19. Strike out
21. Suck in breath
22. Conscious of
24. Pub choice
25. Past and future, e.g.
27. Showy flowers
29. Deflected
30. Get \_\_\_\_\_ (retaliate)
31. Beatty movie
33. Attack!
36. Basement
39. Author Arthur Conan \_\_\_\_\_
41. Egyptian snakes
42. Seep
43. "You \_\_\_\_\_ live twice"
45. Reduce
47. Trailing vine
48. Life story, for short
50. Like Mother Hubbard e.g.
51. Layer

Solution is on page 5



Don't tell Minnie.

## The Point

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**OPINION EDITOR**  
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**FACULTY ADVISER**  
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The *Point* considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

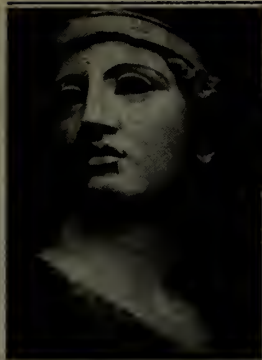
All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a *Point* article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the *Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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As Foretold by Cassandra

# Horoscopes

**Aries** Things are going very well for you right now, so you have no reason to get flustered or to feel pressure. The lesson for the day for our friend Aries is that you needn't accomplish everything within the first five minutes of the day. So what if your room is a sty and you can't find your shoes? It's all good!

**Taurus** That helping hand you held out to a friend in need really made the difference, whether they said thanks or not. People are really listening to you, even if you don't believe it, so that frustrated "nobody loves me" attitude is coming across loud and clear. Try to focus on the positive.

**Gemini** No, you are not possessed by an evil demon! We all know what it feels like when your skin doesn't fit. Things will brighten soon so you need not worry. Things are going to look up on the 23rd so keep your eyes open for a dark horse in Hammond.

**Cancer** Good-bye loyal datebook! You are a powerhouse of energy and it's spreading to those who know you! Get rid of any plans you may have had and be as spontaneous as you feel! Others will catch onto this wild and crazy you and join in on the fun.

**Leo** Everybody loves Leo! But then, when don't they? This will be an amazing week for certain Leos with wonderful opportunity coming from every corner! Possibilities to schmooze and get to know some pretty interesting people come up later in the week, and possibly a trip to boot!

## Personals

Dedicated to helping the loveless of Fitchburg State College, The Point has come up with a personals column to introduce possibly compatible people to one another. We sincerely hope that you take full advantage of this and if you are interested in any of the descriptions listed below please call The Point at x3647. If you want to place an ad then please contact AnneMarie Donahue and set up a time to come into the office and have a resume written for you. Thank you very much and happy hunting!

#1 Single black female about 5'7" Loves going to the movies, shopping, cooling, dancing, writing, etc. Looking for a taller male, nice personality, fun loving and active. So if you think you are the right one and you think you are man enough to rock my world, call The Point office at x3647 and arrange to meet me!

#2 Single white male, bisexual, looking for someone not interested in serious relationship. I enjoy sports, hiking and listening to music and would like to find someone interested in those things to share some time with me. Please only serious people looking to meet a fun-loving person respond. If interested please contact The Point at x3647.

#3 Michael J. Poirier, former student, wishes to tell AnneMarie Donahue that he loves her very much and is very happy to celebrate their six-month anniversary Poirier, an alumnus, met Donahue in The Point office by accident and would like to add that it was the best car wreck he's ever been in. "I hope we have six more months just like this! I love you!" - Michael J. Poirier

**Virgo** You are running on empty as far as the funding is concerned! Even though friends are planning something fun you just don't have the money to partake! But I see a ray of hope for you yet, it's called a JOB - get one! Watch out for an opportunity to make extra \$\$, it will pop up suddenly.

**Libra** You're a social butterfly lately, so when you and your gals go out for a night on the town pick up the check, especially if you know some pauper Virgos! Good news waits around the corner for you, and with a little hard work and some luck you might just find a reason to party!

**Scorpio** Don't unpack your "come-hither" shoes just yet! The object of your desire might be the man of your perverse fanatasies, but is he truly the man of your dreams? Try to put it off until you're sure; casual sex is not a way to go these days and if he's a REAL man he'll respect you for it!

**Sagittarius** Pay that special someone in your life a little extra special attention. A cute little card to brighten their dismal day. Dinner at a restaurant is alway nice and finish the evening with a back rub, like who couldn't use one of those!

**Capricorn** Your need to acheieve is seconded only by your need to play and lately you have been walking a tightrope between the two! Call a special Virgo friend to help you sort that out. Virgos are really great at putting things into perspective and making lists, and then take the poor devil out to dinner. Virgo you are just a poor soul this week!

**Aquarius** You can talk the talk, but you can't walk the walk so knock it off! It's really pathetic! You really need to make sure that the hot air you've been blowing all over the place doesn't come back to scorch you later! An unexpected incident is going to bring out the truth anyway...

**Pisces** Okay, look out, that free lunch you are about to get is exactly what it looks like: an innocent free lunch. Hey, it can happen, can't it? Be prepared for being treated like that fabulous one, instead of stroking someone else's ego (won't that be a nice change). But be sure to take full advantage of this as, Cinderella, it does strike midnight eventually.

C	L	A	P		T	R	A	P		G	A	B
R	E	P	O		R	I	P	E		A	B	E
Y	I	P	S		A	V	E	R	A	G	E	D
		R	E	D	Y	E			G	E	E	S
G	O	O		E	S	T	A	T	E			
A	N	V	I	L		S	L	E	N	D	E	R
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			S	E	C	E	D	E		E	N	S
A	L	O	E			L	O	S	E	R		
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S	K	Y		Y	O	R	E		E	D	D	Y





## LOOK CLOSER: 'Amercian Beauty'

By Robin E Sandberg

Director: Sam Menedes

Cast: Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Thora Birch, Wes Bentley, Mena Suvari, Pete Gallagher, Chris Cooper, Allison Janney, Sam Robards

5 stars

What do the suburbs, asparagus, good pot, a Firebird, real estate and a midlife crisis have in common? Not much, but they are all a part of the new black comedy "American Beauty," which is about to shock America. I don't mean shock like "American Pie" or "South Park." Not only do I guarantee that you will find little time to breathe between laughs, but you will come out of it utterly affected.

The film focuses on Lester (Spacey, Oscar winner for "The Usual Suspects"), the 42-year-old suburban husband who is about to hit his midlife crisis and is now fantasizing about his daughter's friend Angela Hayes (Suvari, "American Pie"). Not only that, but he is going to die in less than a year. If that sounds bad, it gets worse. His wife, Carolyn (Benning, "Regarding Henry"), is striving for perfection as a realtor and seems to believe that if she pastes on a fake smile she can accomplish anything. Their less-than-enthusiastic-toward-life cheerleader daughter Jane (Bircher), has so little self-esteem that she wants to get breast implants, even though it is abundantly obvious she doesn't need them. Then there is The Fitts family.



The son Ricky (Bently) is infatuated with Jane and his camcorder. The ex-military father (Cooper) wants everyone to be as perfect as he. This causes so much friction with his son that it becomes strenuous to watch. The mother (Janney) appears catatonic, always staring off into a world of her own.

Bring all these unique characters together and there's no telling what will happen next.

Critics have compared "American Beauty" to "Happiness" and "The Ice Storm." I must humbly beg to disagree, only because it is so much more than these films.

"Beauty" is not only profoundly dark and revealing, it is also touching. Every character is poignantly portrayed. Spacey is predictably inspiring with his unique talent of transformation. Bening is enigmatic in her portrayal of a Martha Stewart on crack.. The entire cast launches a tidal wave over the film industry. Not only that, but this is director Sam Mendes' first film.

If I have not convinced you yet that this is the most powerful film to come out of Hollywood in years, or that it is a strong contender to sweep the Oscars, just wait ... and see for yourself. You will be convinced.

## Jakob, seeker of truth

by Jessica Roy

Rarely does Hollywood gracefully balance the most tragic life experiences with a tasteful and hearty dose of comedy. One gem has been harvested from the coal mine, and its dramatic beauty glitters resplendently. Its name is "Jakob the Liar."

Robin Williams thoughtfully captures the character of Jakob Heym, a resident of a 1945 Jewish ghetto who hears a German news program when he is stopped past curfew.

As prisoners of the Holocaust, the ghetto residents are forbidden to own radios and listen to news programs.

Jakob reveals his findings of the Russians coming closer to liberating the death camps to a ghetto neighbor and soon the entire Jewish community begins to needle Jakob for more updates.

Wanting to raise the spirits of his people and afraid to admit he has no radio, Jakob manufactures false news bulletins in an effort to restore hope and life to the exhausted population.

In the meantime Jakob, a lonely widower, keeps himself busy by reluctantly adopting a young girl, who he hides in the attic of his home. Eventually, the German forces learn of the radio, leaving the residents of the ghetto fighting for their lives.

Williams gives yet another a brilliant performance. His portrayal of a desperate man in desolate times is genuine and richly satisfying.



*"Aimed toward making the audience feel a bit dirty leaving the theater, the film captures the filth and psychological despair of the ghetto with razor-sharp precision."*

This film is very focused and personal in nature. Aimed toward making the audience feel a bit dirty leaving the theater, the film captures the filth and psychological despair of the ghetto with razor-sharp precision.

The Holocaust was attended to with respect and tenderness, allowing the audience to become a part of the setting, if only for two hours.

This film brings a closer understanding of the heroism and valor in this troubled era of persecution.

Jakob proves humanity can learn a lifetime's worth of truth from a liar.

In our current times of tribulation, we could use a closer look into his golden, shining eyes.

## A small play brings a million laughs.

By Robin E. Sandberg

The intimate setting of a small theater, where the actors are so close that they can not only trip over you, they can even converse with you ... This is "Shear Madness."

Dressed to the nines, I arrived ready for the typical big lights and show tunes. As I entered this hole-in-the-wall theater (directly next to Blue Man Group), I found it to be a lot smaller than I had imagined. I was then seated at a small table directly in the front. The stage was inches from my feet and at eye level.

Set in a salon, this play is a murder mystery. Our list of unusual suspects includes the colorful male beautician who strongly expresses his "feminine" side and comes off beyond hilarious; and the female hairdresser who is "slightly" tacky and on the shameless side. All the characters work together like a family. You can tell they care about each other but feel no remorse for making each other the punchline to a joke.

"Shear Madness" is the longest running nonmusical play in American history. If you are looking for a highly enjoyable night of entertainment in the city, skip the bars for one night and go see "Shear Madness." You'd swear it wasn't possible to laugh for two straight hours, but at "Shear Madness" it is.



## Don't let debt get you down

by Jessica Roy

*"I wanted to be Superwoman, no longer tied to my mother's purse strings"*

Debt is one of the nasty hidden side effects of the college experience and the pursuit of the American Dream. It sneaks up on you out of nowhere. It crawls into bed with you at night, and curls around your feet while you are in class. It is worn like an invisible identification badge that says, "I am an American College Student!"

In my experience, credit was easy to come by. My home and campus mailboxes were littered with colorful advertisements exclaiming that I was already pre-qualified, whatever that meant, and to sign up right away before this one-time-only offer passed me by.

I craved the financial power! I wanted to be Superwoman, no longer tied to my mother's purse strings. I wanted to buy nice new clothes and better yet, good beer!

So I submitted to my materialistic desires and signed right up.

All of a sudden, that card became a means of affording things for school, for home. Heck, I could get a week's worth of groceries, sign a slip of paper and happily cart my milk, bread, eggs and of course, beer, home without a second thought of paying the bills.

I paid for schoolbooks and everything else under the sun I needed, or wanted.

Credit was a powerful tool, which I believe saved me during my days as a full-time college student. Without a steady income, I was forced to make do.

Many times, this was done with my trusty credit cards. I was grateful to have these little gems in my pocketbook, but they soon led me into a hazardous way.

Shortly after acquiring my third credit card, I realized that working part time was not going to cover my living

expenses and my credit card bills every month. I was forced to make a choice: pay rent or pay my mounting credit card bills.

Well, everyone needs a roof over their head, so I chose to make good on my rent and shirk my bills.

When I say creditors are tenacious, I don't just mean these people were of average tenacity. I am talking about using bizarre tactics, such as pretending to be my best friend. These companies actually called me and left messages on my machine, using the names of my friends.

How they found this information baffles me to this day.

So naturally, I picked up the phone, and found a dogged representative on the other end, demanding to know where my payment was.

They called at all hours of the day and on the weekends.

I was being driven mad by these companies, which had once been my financial friends. And I knew the only way to get these people off my back would be to pay them.

Only when I began to work full time over the summer did I find relief from these horrible people.

I got involved with a credit counseling program and I found it to be a lifesaver in the depths of my dismal financial sea. The payment plan we worked out together was righteous for my budget and my peace of mind. No longer would I stay up worrying about money, stressed to the point of tears.

This is not a lesson in credit management, just an experience I am sharing in hopes that people will not merri-ly and ignorantly jaunt down the same footpath I found myself on.

Through my credit-card experience, I bought myself an expensive lesson in the art of life. Never buy what you can not afford, but always keep an eye on what you can get away with free.



## Painting a grim picture

by Anthony Falvey

As the spring semester of 1999 was coming to a close, I understood that I would be faced with two major dilemmas. One was finding a place to live. The other was finding full-time employment. My situation appeared grim, until I followed up on an employment suggestion from a resident director. He mentioned to me that there are students who paint for the college during the summer - receiving pay, and housing.

He was sketchy with the details, but he did give me a phone number to inquire about the job opportunity. The resident director's information was accurate. The student painting occupation did pay well, and housing was provided.

My dilemmas for the summer appeared solved- for the moment.

Student painters arrived for work at 7 a.m., and left at 3:30 p.m. (Painters received two 10 minute breaks, and one 30-minute lunch.) This schedule revolved around a 40-hour work week, with the weekends off.

However, when it came to actually starting the job, complications arose. The first dealt with our living conditions. It was decided by Campus Living that all painters had to room with one another. That meant having a roommate throughout the hot, humid days of summer. Apparently Campus Living reasoned that it would not really matter where or how the painters lived; after all, it was only for a couple of months. And besides- it was free living, right?

This would be the start of all of the

painters reminding each other of that particular luxury.

Another situation caused by complications of the job was boredom. Most painters did not have vehicles. When the painting day ended at 3:30 p.m., there was not much to do. On one particular day, most of the painters decided to travel on over to our campus gym and work with weights. There were at least four painters who were going. Then, we discovered the gym was locked. A locked campus gym does not appear like such a great deal to get upset about- but the fact remains. We are students who should be able to use our gym. Once again, we would remind ourselves that we were still lucky to be living rent-free. Eventually, the gym was opened for us, but only for about an hour on select days.

The major problem with being a student painter was the pay situation. When June was approaching, it was explained that we could only work 20 hours a week for that specific month. Some valid reasons were given, so once again- we painters were thankful that we were still living rent-free. After we survived June, we were back to a 40 hour work week. Events seemed fine for a while. Calm situations came to a close when it was finally announced that our pay period (every two weeks) was now going to be once every month. At this point, I was ready to call it quits- but where else could a student live rent-free?

The summer is now over- and unfortunately I am still waiting for two more paychecks...And, sad to say, I am no longer living rent-free.

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## Attention students!

The Sept. 22 issue of The Point featured a short work of fiction titled "School Stories: Fresh Prey." One reader, who did not realize that "School Stories" has always been a forum for fiction, believed that the story was news at that the character of Danny was an actual member of the FSC football team.

The Danny mentioned in the story does not really exist; he is not, was not and never will be a member of the FSC football team.

Many newspapers run excerpts from fictional works, and the names used within these works are understood to be those of fictional characters; not of real people.

Not to be snide, but let's make this the last time I have to explain this, shall we? Thank you.

## Evil Trevor

Once upon a time there was a little college in Fitchburg and they used to celebrate Halloween, but they don't anymore...

"Are you sure you have to go home this weekend?" Emily hurriedly picked up her roommate Sarah's luggage and carried it out to the car.

"Yea, my family always throws a big Halloween party. Anyway, I want to see my friends, and don't pretend like you won't have Peter up there all weekend long anyway!" Sarah loaded her bag into her back seat, hugged Emily and drove off.

Emily walked back up to her room and called Peter, they made plans to meet at the celebration that night. She would dress as an angel and he would dress as a skeleton. She donned her little costume and walked out to the quad. It was dark for only nine and a little cold, but she was comforted by the noise that met her as she approached the campus wide party.

"Hey Emily," Jen called out to her! "So I hear this is the big weekend!"

The rest of the girls laughed and sighed at her, but Emily knew it was just a joke.

"Yup, I can't wait. I just wish I could find him." As she turned to look around she came face to face with the strangest looking skeleton of them all. A man, painted his face black and white to mirror that of the facial bones, but he wore a musty old suit with a long black overcoat. On his head sat a black top hat, also very worn, however this top hat had a Hawaiian Lei around the brim. Emily smiled and hugged what could only be Peter in a ridiculous get up like that. The grim figure hugged her back and smiled.

"Let's get out of here." Emily led her boyfriend back to her room. They sat down on the bed, the music from the quad soft now, while the fireworks cast lights which danced on her walls.

"Peter, I really love you. I want to make love with you." Emily kissed him on his lips and caressed his strong shoulders.

Back at the party the people screamed in delight, Jen and her friends stood yelling up at the fireworks. A disheveled skeleton staggered up to Jen...

"Where's Emily," the obviously drunken voice asked.

"Peter, I thought you and Emily went up the room?" Jen dragged Peter into the dorm behind him running up to Emily's room. She knocked on the door, but no one answered. Thinking quickly she broken into the room...

"Don't turn the light on, I don't feel well." A soft voice said from the bed.

"Oh sorry Emily," Jen said.

"Honey I'll make you feel better," Peter said staggering in. Jen closed the door behind him and walked back to the party.

The next morning she awoke to a pounding on her door. "Campus Police, please open the door." Jen got up and quickly put on her bathrobe, she opened the door to find two very serious looking officers staring at her.

"Can I help you?"

"You need to come with us."

"Why?"

"Did you enter Emily Ward's room last night?"

Jen explained that she opened the door to let Emily's boyfriend in, but she didn't go in herself. The police walked her down stairs as two gurneys rolled past her.

"What's going on?" Jen was completely hysterical by now.

"Your two friends were murdered last night by a man hiding in the room."

Evidently there were a rash of murders by a man dressed similarly and since then no state college has celebrated Halloween. So now you know the story of Evil Trevor.

## Mr. Free Advice

*Because advice is always worth the price you paid for it!*

This column is a parody and not to be taken seriously. On a personal note, please be aware that you should not ask the advice of anyone who works for The Point, we're not good people..

-AnneMarie Donahue, Editor-in-Chief

Dear Mr. Free Advice

I am a 20-year-old sophomore and I'm in big trouble. I'm in relationships with two women! Both are considerably older and one has a child. I'm not sure what to do, I want to be a carefree college student, but at the same time I don't know how to tell these women about each other. Neither of them has any idea of what's going on. What should I do?

Hopelessly devoted to two

Dear Hopeless,

Get your head examined! You are a college student and it's completely unfair to EVERYONE involved that you are carrying on a relationship with two women! Unless, of course, they are into that.... If you decide you can't handle two women in separate relationships, try condensing!

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I heard this horrible story about a girl around here who killed on campus! I think it's terrible of the school to cover it all up. Evidently, she lived in Miller Hall back when it used to be a dorm and she wanted to be friends with these really popular girls. Well, as the story goes the girl is taken up to the roof of Thompson and thrown off, or she fell, or something like that. Have you heard anything like this? I think The Point should do a story on this because students should be aware of something like this!

Moron in Mara

Dear Moron,

You should write a letter to the president about it, so he can know exactly how stupid you are! That was a story we ran two semesters ago and stupid AnneMarie made it up! However, the one about the babysitter is true - so look out! Idiot.

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I have a problem; my boyfriend wants sex all the time. I just don't know how to say no to him. Sometimes I feel like I should give it up to him because he's really nice and he's always taking me out. He's so sweet and he treats me really well, I just don't know what's wrong with me. Do you think I have a medical problem?

Not Horny in Herlihy

Dear Not,

Okay, for once I'm going to be serious, but I'll also ask everyone to stop sending in questions as this column is for parody purposes ONLY! You don't have to do anything that you don't want to! You should only do things that make you comfortable and because you want to. If he is a real man then he will understand and respect you for your decision, which it sounds like he will. Start by defining how far you want to go, and then stick to it! Slowly progress as you feel like you want to, but don't get talked or pressured into anything. Who cares what everyone is doing? You have your own ideals and you have to answer to no one except yourself.

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I'm a freshman and I want to make some new friends, but I'm not sure how to go about doing it. I want to try out the clubs and organizations on campus, but I'm a little nervous about whether they will like me or not. I'm also interested in pledging a fraternity. What do you think?

New guy in new halls

Dear new guy,

Do what suits you, but a word to the wise: Know who you are and don't compromise. Also, there is no such thing as a snipe!



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# FSC women prove they're on the ball

by Rhalda Jansen

Our volleyball Falcons have had quite a challenging start of the new season. After coach Paciorek resigned at the end of last year, the women found themselves without a coach. Just a few weeks before the start of the new season a new head coach was hired. This year they will be led to victory by coach William Torres. Torres has a background in both collegiate and international volleyball. He is a 1998 graduate of the University of Sacred Heart in Santurce, Puerto Rico. He is currently also the head men's soccer coach at Atlantic Union College, as well as their fitness consultant.

The new assistant coach, Charrington "Chicks" Hicks, was hired a few weeks later. She is definitely not a stranger to the team, having played with these same Falcons for four years. She is a 1999 graduate of FSC, and currently works for the layout department of another paper. (She worked on the Point last year.)

The Falcons have lost three of last year's starters due to graduation and internships, but they have some awesome new assets, too. My own special favorite of the season has to be Erica

"Oh there she is!" Dusombre. She is an all-over super player, and definitely "on the ball" all throughout the game. "Awesome job, chica!"

For spectacular serves we have the fresh Kristen "Boom Boom!" Curtin, who can really hit!...Well, as long as you get it in and over, that is.

Maya Simmons had a rough start of the season, and has to recover from an injury, but I'm looking forward to watching her play whenever she gets back in there.

Freshman Melissa Frazier is definitely present on the court, and Maria Escobar is up there with her setting skills.

For the returners we have the ever smashing Megan "Gotta love the hairdos" Barrett, who's leading the team this year. To take over for Inori Kunimi and her setting skills, the Falcons have Joanie "my volleybabe" Gillen and Michelle "thanks for the CD Hootchie!" Hutchinson. They have some pretty great shoes to fill, but are totally up to doing it! Beckie "Chicks Junior" Bennett is standing strong on the court this year, and improving her middle hitter skills. "Just remember to smack 'em down there, Beck!" Junior Marie Nordberg is back for her second

year on the team, and is getting court time with Joanie, who was actually her substitute last year.

The Falcons had a very successful home match against Rivier College this last Thursday. Kristin's serves definitely helped a bundle, and Coach Torres is keeping it all nice and calm, even when the ball goes outside of the antennas and the referee doesn't quite notice it. "If I'm totally nervous and jumping over here, how would that make you feel on the court?" I heard him tell one of his players. I definitely believe this is a good thing, cause the Falcons look very structured this year. They've even started playing certain "plays" to fool their opponent.

I do have to mention that I don't quite like Play No. 3, because the serve always ends up in the net when that play is called. This reporter will definitely investigate this phenomenon some more, and see if this is just madness or merely tactics.

The Falcons are currently riding on a 3-9 record, but are definitely going to make it look a lot better as the season goes on. Their next home game will be a double header this Saturday against Framingham State and Mass Maritime. Good luck ladies, RJ. is watching you!

## Ground Zero offers fun times for students

by Kevin Carr

This fall, there are many exciting things to do on campus. You can attend several of the sports games, or perhaps go to a movie in Ellis White Lecture Hall. But one of the best (and least known) places to hang out and relax is the Ground Zero game room.

Ground Zero is located in the Hammond Building adjacent to Ellis White Lecture Hall. Ground Zero, or "The Game room" as it is unofficially known, has several pool tables, ping-pong tables, and video games to use, as well as the Outdoor Adventure Center. The OAC is a very cool place to check out a variety of equipment and gear including canoes, soccer balls, and camping gear. The OAC also has information on several camping, skiing, snowboarding and outdoor trips and areas in the region! Come by and check it out.

But some of the biggest news is the tournaments Ground Zero is running this semester. There is an ongoing chess tournament, and players are

always welcome. Those wishing to participate should call Kevin Carr at extension 3350.

On Oct. 13, Ground Zero is running a table-tennis tournament, with the winner of the tournament going on to a regional tournament against players from other colleges. Also, on Oct. 27, there will be a 9-Ball Billiards Tournament. The winner of this tournament will also travel to the regional tournament.

Rounding out the schedule is the "James Bond Goldeneye 007" Tournament on Nov. 3. The tournament looks to be the most intense one yet, as several quality players have already committed.

On Nov. 11, Ground Zero will offer an 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, and on Nov. 17, there will be the second annual Table Tennis Challenge. The Table Tennis Challenge is open to anyone who either works for or attends FSC, including faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students. Last year's tournament was won by the students under the brilliant play of senior Matt Gauvin.



Remember, all tournaments are held at 5:30 p.m. in the Game Room. If you are interested in signing up for a tournament, or have any questions or suggestions, please call extension 3350.

There are also a few renovations coming your way, and these include a new TV for the game room, as well as a Playstation! Stay tuned to find out what is going on.

Have a great semester and remember to stop down at Ground Zero, play some games, relax, sign up for a tournament, and have a great time!

Tournament list for  
Ground Zero, Fall 1999

**Oct. 6**

**Air Hockey**

**Oct. 13**

**Table Tennis**

**Oct. 27**

**9-Ball Billiards**

**Nov. 3**

**'Goldeneye'  
Tournament**

**Nov. 10**

**8-Ball Billiards**

**Nov. 17**

**Faculty/Staff/Student  
Table Tennis Challenge**

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